

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
SUBJECT Loading of Tanks on New Type Railroad Cars

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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Alt Ruppın railroad station. * Three SSy type flatcars; 1 six-axle flatcar at least 16 meters long and inscribed RR Experimental Car; 3 T-34 tanks numbered 481, 482 and 483, and 3 other tanks of a type unknown in these loading operations. Source saw the experimental car for Source obtained photographs of RRs-type flatcars from a prospect factory in Wildau. **

2. The loading operations were supervised by a general who, along with six other officers, had arrived by special rail motor coach from Karlshorst. A total of 10 officers including 2 lieutenant-colonels of the tank arm attended the experimental loading operations. The general wore a cap with a gold cord, an overcoat with red lapels, and there was a broad red stripe along the outward seam of his trousers. The tanks were loaded from an end loading ramp, the sequence of the railroad cars being 1 SSy, 1 RR, 2 SSy type cars. Each of the SSy type cars was loaded with one tank, while two tanks were loaded on the RR type flatcar. Source distinctly saw that the springs of the latter car were in no way damaged by these loading operations. No trial cars. The purpose of these operations was to relative load capacities of the two different types of cars.

3. After completion of the loading operations, the officers from Karlshorst returned to Karlshorst. On the following day, the RR experimental flatcar left empty for an undetermined destination.

25X1 * Comment. Alt Ruppın is on the single track Loewenberg-Neuruppın-Neustadt/Dosse railroad line, which in 1950 was converted into a main line.

25X1 ** Comment. The SSy type flatcar is welded four-axle heavy-duty car with iron side racks, a usable length of 8.8 meters and a load capacity of 46 to 50 tons. SSy-type heavy-duty flatcars would be suitable for the loading of two tanks as observed in Alt Ruppın. These cars have a usable length of 18 meters and a load capacity of 35 to 80 tons. However, as the flatcar reportedly used for these loading practices was inscribed RR, it may have been an RRs-type flatcar with side racks

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as built by the nationalized Iowa railroad car factory in Wildau. These cars have four axles, iron side racks and a total length of 19,600 mm. Their loading platform is 18,080 x 2,580 mm, their load capacity 40 tons, a pressure 8,000 kg. Their standard-gauge bogies can be exchanged for standard-gauge ones. ~~For photographs of this type of flatcar, see Annex~~ of these cars would make it possible to load two T-34 tanks on them, because each of these tanks is 6,100 mm long. However, as the gross weight of one T-34 is about 32 tons, the load capacity of the standard RRS type flatcars would prohibit the shipment of two T-34 tanks on one car. It is therefore possible that source observed a special version of this type car which had been brought to a load capacity of 65 tons. The tanks observed belong to the 12th Gds Tank Div in Neuruppin.

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